(c) The Government accords high priority to the holisitc and integrated development of rainfed areas involving the concepts of development of potential watersheds and sustainable farming system development. With this objective a centrally sponsored scheme, namely the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) is being implemented in 25 States and 2 Union Territories for the benefit of farmers in rainfed areas. The objectives are achieved under the scheme through treating both arable and non-arable lands and natural drainage lines in the rainfed areas for in-situ moisture conservation associated with diversified farming system approach for improving production and productivity. The project has holistic approach and addresses the ecological and productivity concerns and aims at harmonizing ecology, economy and equity.

Besides, funds for drip sprinkler irrigation systems are also provided under various centrally sponsored schemes for the development of horticulture and other crop production.

Five Point Programme for Agriculture Production

1540. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a five point programme to the related activities to give impetus in agricultural production in the country; and

(b) if so, to what extent it has been implemented in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise and what is its result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister, while inaugurating the 'Agro Advantage Maharashtra Conference' at Mumbai on November 6, 1998, announced a Five Point Programme focussing on effective functioning of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium, strengthening the futures, market in the agriculture sector, promotion of exports of farm produce, unveiling a National Rural Cooperative Policy and use of information technology in agriculture and agro-business, to give a major boost to food processing and agro-based businesses in the country. The focus of the Programme is on measures to be taken at the National level.